

Current Economic Programs Printed Survey Results: by the *Annual Public Employee Retirement Statistics Users* Respondent Base

U.S. Census Bureau
Current Economic Statistics User Survey

OMB CQM-26 (Rev.5/5/98)

I. DATA CONTENT

Your answers identifying the survey data you use will help us understand our users' patterns of data use.

1. Which Current Economic Statistics from the Census Bureau do you use? (Mark all that apply.)

(1) Monthly

0.0%;	0	None
94.4%;	17	Retail Sales
88.9%;	16	Wholesale Trade
88.9%;	16	Manufacturing/Trade Inventory/Sales
83.3%;	15	Housing Starts
88.9%;	16	Building Permits
88.9%;	16	New Home Sales
83.3%;	15	Value of New Construction Put in Place
77.8%;	14	Housing Completions
72.2%;	13	Expenditures for Residential Improvements
77.8%;	14	New Residential Construction
61.1%;	11	New Mobile Home Placements
83.3%;	15	Monthly Imports and Exports
72.2%;	13	Current Industrial Reports
77.8%;	14	Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, Orders

Replies 18; Forms 21

(2) Quarterly

93.3%;	14	Quarterly Financial Report
86.7%;	13	Current Industrial Reports
26.7%;	4	Federal Assistance Awards Data System
33.3%;	5	Quarterly Tax Survey
53.3%;	8	Quarterly Public Employee Retirement

Replies 15; Forms 21

(3) Annual

81.0%;	17	Annual Retail Trade
81.0%;	17	Annual (Wholesale) Trade
66.7%;	14	Annual Survey of Communications
66.7%;	14	Transportation Annual Survey
71.4%;	15	Service Annual Survey
81.0%;	17	County Business Patterns

57.1%;	12	ZIP Code Business Patterns
71.4%;	15	Statistics of U.S. Businesses
61.9%;	13	Characteristics of New Housing
66.7%;	14	Annual Building Permits
52.4%;	11	New Residential Construction in Selected Metropolitan Areas
71.4%;	15	Annual Capital Expenditures
76.2%;	16	Annual Survey of Manufactures
76.2%;	16	Current Industrial Reports
66.7%;	14	Research and Development Survey
52.4%;	11	Plant Capacity Utilization
61.9%;	13	Education Finance Survey
90.5%;	19	State Tax Collection Survey
100.0%;	21	Annual Public Employee Retirement
90.5%;	19	Annual Survey of Public Employment
81.0%;	17	Consolidated Federal Funds Report
95.2%;	20	State Government Finances
81.0%;	17	Annual Imports and Exports

Replies 21; Forms 21

II. DATA DELIVERY

The Census Bureau is considering use of the Internet as the primary method of data delivery. By completing the following questions, you will help us retain the most essential delivery formats and design the best possible data delivery service.

(4) 2. How do you receive current economic data now? (Mark all that apply.)

95.2%;	20	Printed Publications	23.8%;	5	FAX
76.2%;	16	World Wide Web (Internet)	19.0%;	4	Diskettes
61.9%;	13	CD-ROMs	9.5%;	2	Other
28.6%;	6	Direct (E-mail) delivery			

Replies 21; Forms 21

- Electronic "Bulletin Boards"
- Tape, Cartridge

(5) 3. What format do you PREFER when downloading data for further manipulation? (Mark all that apply.)

55.0%;	11	Spreadsheet (e.g., wkl, xls, etc...)
35.0%;	7	ASCII flat files
30.0%;	6	ASCII delimited
25.0%;	5	Do not manipulate data
25.0%;	5	Database (e.g., dbf, mdb, etc...)
20.0%;	4	Retrieve from print or screen and enter manually
0.0%;	0	Other

Replies 20; Forms 21

- [none]

4. What capabilities do you want on the Census Internet site? (For each line, indicate the degree of your preferences, from 5 [high] to 1 [low].)

(6) a. Direct (E-mail) delivery:						
35.7%;	5	5	21.4%;	3	3	21.4%;
14.3%;	2	4	0.0%;	0	2	7.1%;
						3 1
						1 Don't know
Replies 14; Forms 21						
(7) b. E-mail notification:						
35.7%;	5	5	35.7%;	5	3	14.3%;
0.0%;	0	4	7.1%;	1	2	7.1%;
						2 1
						1 Don't know
Replies 14; Forms 21						
(8) c. Retrieve/display to screen:						
61.1%;	11	5	11.1%;	2	3	0.0%;
16.7%;	3	4	0.0%;	0	2	11.1%;
						0 1
						2 Don't know
Replies 18; Forms 21						
(9) d. Search:						
100.0%;	18	5	0.0%;	0	3	0.0%;
0.0%;	0	4	0.0%;	0	2	0.0%;
						0 1
						0 Don't know
Replies 18; Forms 21						
(10) e. Download complete data sets:						
75.0%;	12	5	18.8%;	3	3	0.0%;
6.2%;	1	4	0.0%;	0	2	0.0%;
						0 1
						0 Don't know
Replies 16; Forms 21						
(11) f. Download selected data:						
94.4%;	17	5	5.6%;	1	3	0.0%;
0.0%;	0	4	0.0%;	0	2	0.0%;
						0 1
						0 Don't know
Replies 18; Forms 21						
(12) g. Software help/tutorials:						
37.5%;	6	5	18.8%;	3	3	6.2%;
25.0%;	4	4	0.0%;	0	2	12.5%;
						1 1
						2 Don't know
Replies 16; Forms 21						
(13) h. Publication-quality printing:						
52.6%;	10	5	15.8%;	3	3	0.0%;
21.1%;	4	4	5.3%;	1	2	5.3%;
						0 1
						1 Don't know
Replies 19; Forms 21						

(14) i. Charts and graphs:

47.4%;	9	5	15.8%;	3	3	0.0%;	0	1
10.5%;	2	4	15.8%;	3	2	10.5%;	2	Don't know

Replies 19; Forms 21

(15) j. Geographic maps:

41.2%;	7	5	5.9%;	1	3	5.9%;	1	1
23.5%;	4	4	11.8%;	2	2	11.8%;	2	Don't know

Replies 17; Forms 21

(16) k. Other, please specify:

Replies 1; Forms 21

- electronic bulletin board
-

(17) l. Electronic Bulletin Board (To collect write-ins)

0.0%;	0	5	0.0%;	0	3	0.0%;	0	1
0.0%;	0	4	0.0%;	0	2	0.0%;	0	Don't know

Replies 0; Forms 21

III. DATA USAGE

Your answers describing how you use the data will help us design the most effective Current Economic Statistics retrieval tool.

(18) 5. Do you combine/compare/merge data from more than one source listed in Question 1?

30.0%;	6	No	70.0%;	14	Yes
--------	---	----	--------	----	-----

Replies 20; Forms 21

(19) 6. What time periods do you consider when using these data? (Mark X all that apply.)

89.5%;	17	5+ years	47.4%;	9	trends up to 5 years
57.9%;	11	latest 1 or 2 periods	0.0%;	0	Other
47.4%;	9	trends up to 1 year			

Replies 19; Forms 21

(20) 7. How do you use the data? (Mark all that apply.)

61.1%;	11	Perform patron/client inquiries
38.9%;	7	Create value-added products/services
33.3%;	6	Store reports/printouts for archival purposes
22.2%;	4	Republish in newspaper/journal
16.7%;	3	Inform investment decisions
11.1%;	2	Inform marketing decisions
5.6%;	1	Locate new sites
0.0%;	0	Other

Replies 18; Forms 21

- [none]
-

(21) 8. What explanatory information do you consult when using these data? (Mark all that apply.)

88.9%;	16	Narrative text describing survey results
77.8%;	14	Definition of terms
72.2%;	13	Sampling and estimation methodology
55.6%;	10	Survey design
5.6%;	1	None
0.0%;	0	Other

Replies 18; Forms 21

- [none]
-

(22) 9. Do you have any pressing data or information needs that are not currently being met?

- The availability of Residential and Commercial Building Permit Data.
 - Place and regional economic data sets in relation to population/race trends.
 - Median income and poverty tables are not in spreadsheet form (they one were).
-

IV. INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATION ISSUES

We will soon begin restructuring the Current Economic Surveys based on the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Your answers will help us ensure that these surveys continue to provide the economic information needed by markets, policy makers, and business people. For more information on NAICS, see the Bureau's web site: <http://www.census.gov/NAICS>.

(24) 10. At what levels of detail do you MOST FREQUENTLY USE industry data classified by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)? (Mark all that apply.)

70.6%;	12	4-digit industries (or maximum detail I can get)
64.7%;	11	Sector totals (SIC division); e.g., Manufacturing or Retail Trade
64.7%;	11	2-digit major groups
58.8%;	10	3-digit industry groups
0.0%;	0	Other

Replies 17; Forms 21

- [none]
-

(25) 11. Were you aware that the SIC system is being replaced by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)?

21.1%;	4	I was unaware of this
36.8%;	7	I am partially aware, but lack details
42.1%;	8	I am aware and understand some implications

Replies 19; Forms 21

12. Would you like to receive more information about NAICS?

(26) Yes, please send me - (Mark all that apply)

100.0%;	10	A brochure that explains NAICS	30.0%;	3	Conference announcements
80.0%;	8	NAICS implementation plans	0.0%;	0	Other

Replies 10; Forms 21

- [none]
-

(27) No Thanks -

44.4%;	4	I will check the Census Bureau's web site (www.census.gov/naics)
55.6%;	5	I don't need more information about NAICS

Replies 9; Forms 21

V. USER PROFILE

Please tell us about yourself so we may serve you better.

(28) 13. Type of organization.

30.0%;	6	Business	10.0%;	2	Media
25.0%;	5	Government	5.0%;	1	Library
25.0%;	5	Academic/Research	5.0%;	1	Other

Replies 20; Forms 21

- Library (University
-

(29) 14. Do you work in your organization's library?

47.6%;	10	Yes	52.4%;	11	No
--------	----	-----	--------	----	----

Replies 21; Forms 21

(30) 15. What is your affiliation with the Census Bureau?

45.0%;	9	None	5.0%;	1	Business/Industry Data Center
20.0%;	4	State Data Center	30.0%;	6	Other

Replies 20; Forms 21

- Richmond Public Library, BST Dept. 101 E. Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23219
 - Depository
 - Affiliate Data Center
 - Data use.
 - GPO Depository
 - Affiliate
-

(35) 20. May we contact you to follow up on this questionnaire?

72.2%;	13	Yes	27.8%;	5	No
--------	----	-----	--------	---	----

Replies 18; Forms 21

(36) Question 21. Remarks:

- A published paper version should always be made available for purchase to the public. Information being available on the internet is nice, yet it is a completely different animal than having a hard copy version of the information. An example: I can receive my news off the internet, but I still prefer to get my newspaper in the morning for reading at my leisure away from a computer.
- Census bureau data is always helpful--the data you provide enhances our publication and enables readers to make informal business decisions.
- We look forward to working with you on the upcoming Census.
- The Web site is great, but it is sometimes difficult to quickly find the information I'm seeking. Also, I am mystified by your downloading parameters. Things should be in dbf format, which is more universally accessible to database managers than mdb.
- We love the Census Bureau! Clear publications indices and ease of search engines on the Internet site are very important to us. Also, choice of how to download data is good, not all users need or can use spreadsheet software.
- Will all Census data be available only via the Internet? My customers prefer printed format. Thank you.

Figure 1: